REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-18. Claims 1, 15 and 18 are amended herein, and new claim 20 is added. Claims 2 and 19 remain cancelled. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 1, 3-18 and 20 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 14-17 were rejected based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,737 (Yano) and U.S. Patent No. 4,788,715 (Lee).

At item 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the use of a waiting queue in Yano is similar to the "suspending" operation of the present invention. However, even when Yano places camera control requests that are rejected in a waiting queue, users are required to later re-send the requests to establish connection. As stated in the description of the third embodiment, to which the Examiner refers, "the user can be provided with a hint for the next action as to whether to wait for a while and re-send an access request later, or to give up sending the access request for the moment" (see, col. 7, lines 16-27).

Further, Yano transmits the access information to a user when the request is rejected, where the request is rejected or is inputted in a waiting queue when the server is busy (see, col. 8 lines 61-62, col. 9 lines 7-9, and col. 10 lines 25-27). That is, the information transmitted in Yano is not for the requests in the queue and is statistic information common for all users whose requests are rejected (i.e., it is not unique for each request).

The Examiner acknowledges that Yano does not disclose automatically connecting a client according to a condition that the access number becomes less than or equal to the submitted numbed, but relies on Lee as teaching the same. Lee is directed to actions to be performed when queued calls are connected to an attendant (see, col. 5, lines 1-14). That is, Lee is directed to incrementing/decrementing the queue of calls when a call enters/leaves the queue of calls (see, col. 6, lines 13-40 and FIG. 4).

The Examiner also combines Yano, Lee and U.S. Patent No. 5,867,572 (MacDonald) to reject independent claim 18. However, MacDonald is limited to estimating a waiting time for each call in a queue and providing a voice announcement regarding the estimated waiting time to corresponding callers (see, col. 4, lines 34-40 and col. 5, lines 59-63).

The present invention transmits access information for a suspended request, displays the access information based on a unique access number for the request is displayed and automatically connects the client to the server. That is, a user is not required to re-send the access request because the present invention postpones the access request (i.e., without canceling the request) by assigning a unique access number to the request.

Independent claim 1, recites that the access number is "unique for said request..." and information of a number of accesses displayed on the client "directly or indirectly indicating a number of uncompleted requests according to said unique access number for said access request and said submitted access number." The present invention further includes, "automatically connecting said client... when said server becomes accessible according to a condition that said access number becomes less than or equal to said submitted access number after displaying said information of the number of accesses."

Independent claims 15 and 18 also recite that the access number is "unique" for a request and "automatically" connecting the client according to "a condition that said access number becomes less than or equal to said submitted access number."

It is submitted that the independent claims 1, 15 and 18 are patentable over the cited references. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of the independent claims is respectfully requested.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The Examiner also relies on various combinations of Yano, Lee, MacDonald, U.S. Patent No. 5,006,983 (Wayne), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0101881 (Sundaresan), U.S. Patent No. 6,023,681(Whitt), U.S. Patent No. 6,006,269 (Phaal) and U.S. Patent No. 6,470,323 (Suzuki) to reject the dependent claims. The various combinations of the cited references are limited to providing information related to wait time of devices waiting to connect to other devices.

In contrast to the cited combinations, each of the independent claims 1, 15 and 18 recite that "unique" access number is provided for a request and the client is "automatically" connected based on "a condition that said access number becomes less than or equal to said submitted access number."

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from the independent claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 4, "when said server is accessible, a

message indicating that said server is accessible is uttered by voice from said client before access to said server." Dependent claim 6 also recites, "said fixed time interval is varied according to said information of the number of accesses." The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features of claims 4 and 6.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 20 recites, "temporarily suspending an access request from the client and assigning a unique access number to the access request" and "displaying a periodically updated list of the current accesses adjusted based on a load of the server." As such, the client is connected with the server "by removing the access request from said temporarily suspending when the server becomes accessible."

The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-mentioned features of claim 20.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 20 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
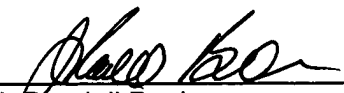
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: ___1/31/6___   By: _____
1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor   J. Randall Beckers
Washington, D.C. 20005   Registration No. 30,358
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

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